

Best Practices In User Facilities

Presented to the Workshop on National Laboratories and Universities: Building New Ways to Work Together

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Argonne National Laboratory



A U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science Laboratory Operated by The University of Chicago





The Advanced Photon Source



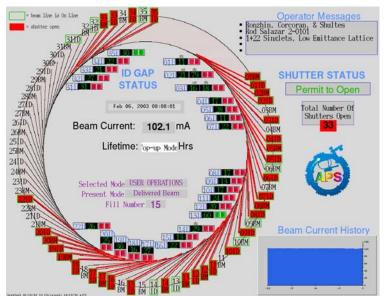
J. Murray Gibson

- PhD University of Cambridge, Physics, 1978
- Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill NJ 1980-1991
 - Distinguished Member of Technical Staff
 - Head, Electronic and Photonic Materials Research Department
- University of Illinois, Urbana IL 1991-1997
 - Professor of Physics and of Materials Science & Engineering
 - Associate Director Seitz Materials Research Laboratory
- Argonne National Laboratory IL 1998-
 - Director, Materials Science Division until 2001
 - Currently Associate Laboratory Director,
 Director, Advanced Photon Source
- Research thin films studied by novel diffraction and imaging



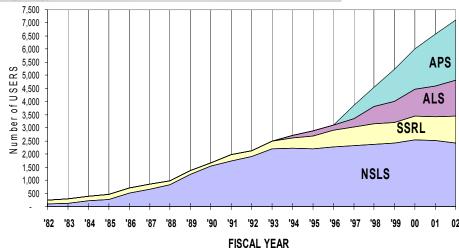


APS becoming the nation's largest facility....



38 functioning beamports (25ID, 13BM) 68 total available

only 4 ID beamports are not yet committed

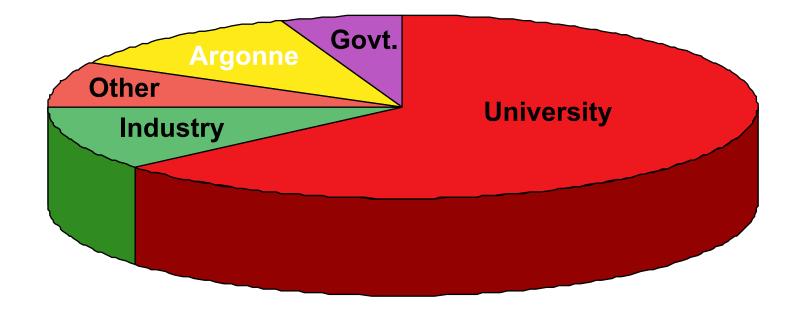


APS user community over 5,000 will reach ~10,000 in a decade



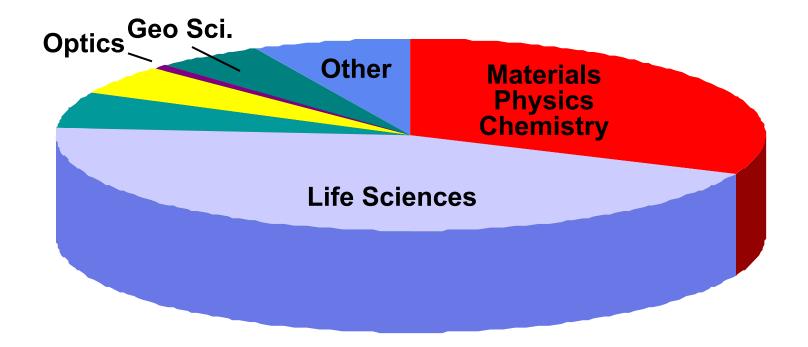


Most of our users are from universities



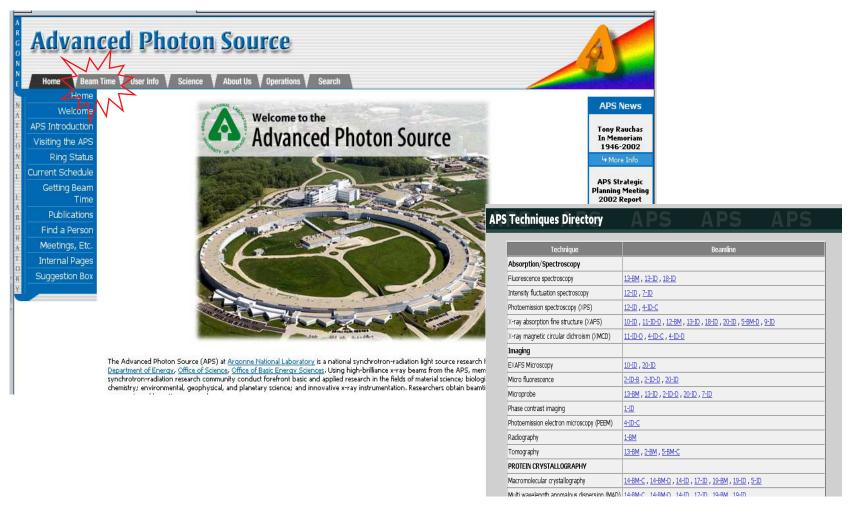


Covering many fields of research...





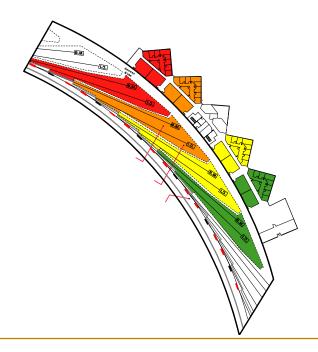
General Users are Welcomed

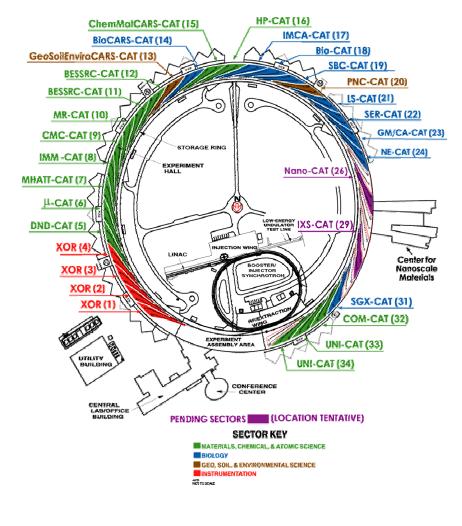




The Collaborative Access Teams at APS

- Special Partnerships
 Collaborative Access Teams Build and Operate a Sector
- Traditionally make 25% time available to general users









Pluses and minuses of CATs

- CAT model has advantages and disadvantages
- Advantages
 - Leveraging of funds
 - Outside drivers and partners for facility
 - Strong connection with universities
 - Creative diversity
- Disadvantages
 - Tendency to avoid specialization
 - Increased operational burden
 - Challenging to sustain stable operational support

Entrepreneurship

Stability and efficiency





APS has developed a more flexible partnering model

- Attracts and retains intellectual investment from outside
 - Universities and other research labs
 - Supports strong autonomous CATs
- Provides appropriate access
- Based on competitive review
- APS taking more role in operational and construction phases, especially for physical/chemical science CATs supported by BES

Partner users not only do great science but they leave the facility better for the general user....

e.g. instrumentation development,

new user community development, education and outreach..





Proprietary research

• Important, but appropriately represents a small portion..

About 2-3% at APS, mostly related to drug companies

(12% of our users are from industry, but most non-proprietary)

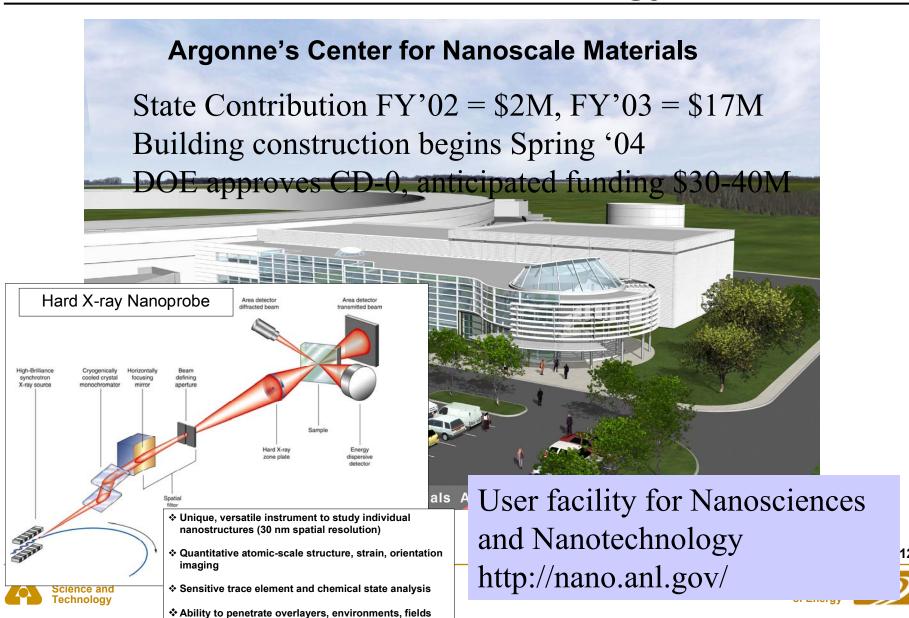
- For proprietary research, full cost recovery
 - (facility only this is an issue)
- IP rights have been an issue, especially if assistance is needed
- Likely will be an even bigger issue for nanoscience centers

Classified research is similarly important to facilitate...





Smaller facilities – nanotechnology



Why the national labs should house large facilities

- Ecumenical
- Interdisciplinary
- Career paths for support staff
- Corporate organization appropriate for large facility management
- Multidisciplinary labs provide a valuable science context
 - How did APS begin?
 - APS benefits greatly from ANL users
- Have organizational flexibility to accommodate natural changes from construction to operation
- GOCO model is effective and involves universities





Weaknesses of the national labs

- Security and access
 - (can be a strength for special facilities, e.g. biohazard)
- Complex intellectual property issues (not unique)
- Joint appointments are good, but have not developed well in many places (exception is Berkeley)
- Challenge to retain a science context
- Human capital





Strengths and weaknesses of Universities

Strengths

- Intellectual leadership
- Education
 - Not only cost-effective but highly leveraged
- => Should be the foundation of all research

Weaknesses

- Infrastructure and instrumentation support
 - Extends to instrumentation development
- Faculty model dominates to the exclusion of other careers
- Work best with individually driven research
- Time scale of student education is long

National labs must choose what they do and not compete with universities Should provide a resource to universities

Big facilities are obvious, but others include....

Teamwork, interdisciplinary, flexibility, small facilities

Case has not been effectively articulated.....





NRC Committee on Small Facilities

- Beginning to study small facilities in materials sciences
- Chair Robert Sinclair, Stanford (BPA/SSSC, NRC contact Tim Meyer)
- There is a crisis in the universities re support of small facilities
 - Perhaps solved through regional considerations
- But National Laboratories can provide some solutions as a resource to universities





Diversity of research environments is powerful

- Each model has strengths and weaknesses
 - Diversity has been good in US, both lab types and agencies
- Partnerships are essential
- Erosion of industrial research environments like AT&T Bell Labs must be compensated for in the National Labs and Universities



A Few Other Best Practices from ANL/APS

- Science Advisory Committee
- National and International co-operation with other facilities
 - Can support some special expertise and solve common problems together
- Stimulating joint appointments with local universities



Dangers

- Don't compete with the users
 - But you must have science within a facility staff
- Don't start with all the money
- Don't assume operational support will materialize from outside the facility
- Don't change too quickly, but change is healthy



Summary

- Large national facilities are a natural role for lab operation and university usage
 - BES/ Office of Science are good stewards for large facilities
- Large facilities need to develop strong partnerships (beyond general users)
- Case has been much better made for large facilities (nobrainer) and needs to be appropriately articulated for other facilities and programs
 - Nanoscience centers are an exciting example
 - Support but don't compete with universities you won't win!



